

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 were presented for examination. The Office Action indicates that:

(a) Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention. (See page 2 of the Office Action.)

(b) Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,618,198 to Dale et al. ("Dale et al. Patent") (See, pages 3-5 of the Office Action.)

(c) Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Dale et al. Patent in view of US Patent No. 5,785,544 to Linden et al. ("Linden et al. Patent") (See, pages 5-6 of the Office Action.)

(d) Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Dale et al. Patent in view of US Patent No. 4,691,080 to Reinhart et al. ("Reinhart et al. Patent") (See, page 6 of the Office Action.)

Claims 1-12 are presented for reconsideration. Claim 1 has been amended as discussed below. Claims 2-12 are unchanged from the claims presently under consideration. Claims 13-15 were previously canceled. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment does not introduce new matter into the application and that the application as amended satisfies the statutory

requirements of 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a). Accordingly, reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

In response to the stated view (at page 4 of the Office Action) that the word "integral" in Claim 1 does not necessarily require a "one piece" construction, the Applicant has amended Claim 1 to expressly indicate that the first housing section is a one-piece assembly. This one-piece structure is shown by Figure 1. This structure distinguishes prior art "two piece" compression fittings such as the structures illustrated by the Dale et al. Patent. Compression fittings have threaded nut members (identified by the Examiner as "89" in Figure 4 of the Dale et al. Patent) that are threadedly received by sealing members (identified by the Examiner as "34") to compress ferrules 76. As is discussed in the specification at page 2, lines 15-22, compression fittings are subject to loosening during an outage. The Applicant provides a one-piece first section designed to metallurgically join with the sheath by, preferably, brazing for preventing such loosening.

In response to the stated position that the use of the word "about" in Claim 1 as unclear, the Applicant has amended Claim 1 to indicate that the "intermediate part" is an "intermediate tubular conical part". The language relating to the relative thicknesses of the intermediate part and the first end was canceled. The tubular conical structure is shown in Figure 1 by the truncated conic section extending between the small diameter end 28 and the large diameter end 18. In addition, and as is shown

in Figure 1, Claim 1 has been further amended to indicate that the small diameter first end has a "longitudinal length" and the large diameter second end has a "longer longitudinal length". Thus, the first housing section that is metallurgically joined with the sheath will have relatively large internal volume defined by its intermediate conical part and its relatively long longitudinal length of its second end. Advantageously, the first housing section (which will not loosen when it is joined with the sheath) can receive and protect an extending portion of the sheath and an electrical insulator and crimped cantilevered ends of conductive pins. Also, the relatively long length of the second end distances (and thereby protects) the metallurgical joint with the sheath from the detachable connecting/disconnecting structures. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest this structure or its advantages.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2-12 are patentable and that the application satisfies the statutory requirements of the statute. Accordingly, allowance of these claims is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required by 37 CFR 1.16 or 37 CFR 1.17 as a result of this Reply to Deposit Account No. 50-0947.

Respectfully submitted,

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